

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-42. Cancelled

43. (New) A computer program storage medium readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program to execute components for providing access to and managing Component Object Model (COM) configuration data about applications and services, in a runtime environment, sourced by one or more datastores, the computer components comprising:

a runtime catalog accessed by a server application and running on a server;

one or more table object dispensers called by the runtime catalog in response to a request for configuration data;

a table system created by the one or more table object dispensers in response to the runtime catalog, the table system providing the configuration data to the server application, the table system including:

one or more datastores to store the configuration data;

one or more logic table objects to present the configuration data;

one or more data table objects created by the one or more logic table objects, each data table object exposing a table cursor into one of the datastores, each data table object bound to one of the datastores.

44. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 43, wherein the table cursor is a predetermined table-oriented interface that hides the location and format of the underlying datastore.

45. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 43, wherein two or more data table objects access one datastore.
46. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 43, wherein the one or more data table objects populate one or more internal caches with read or write data associated with the bound datastore.
47. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 5, wherein queries to the bound datastore are responded to by data in the cache or caches through the a table interface of the data table object.
48. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 43, wherein the one or more logic table objects provide one or more callers with access to configuration data.
49. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 48, wherein the one or more logic table objects present the configuration data in a virtual table format with a predetermined table interface.
50. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 43, wherein the configuration data in the one or more logic table objects is accessed by a table-oriented interface that includes a table cursor method.
51. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 43, wherein the logic table object presents domain-specific configuration data.
52. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 51, wherein the domain-specific configuration data is defined by one or more input parameters.
53. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 52, wherein the one or more input parameters include a database ID, a table ID, a query parameter, or a level of server parameter.

54. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 43, wherein the one or more logic table objects merge configuration data from one or more data table objects or one or more logic table objects.

55. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 43, wherein the one or more logic table objects supplement functionality of the one or more data table objects by intercepting interface calls and adding to or overriding the functionality of the one or more data table objects.

56. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 43, wherein the one or more logic table objects synthesize data, according to a type of request for configuration data, which is not available from the one or more data table objects.

57. (New) A computer program storage medium readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program to execute components for providing access to and managing Component Object Model (COM) configuration data about applications and services, in a configuration-time environment, sourced by one or more datastores, the computer components comprising:

an administration tool that presents configuration data to a caller;

one or more client table objects, the one or more client table objects providing configuration data for the administration tool to present to the caller;

one or more catalog server objects, each of the client table objects bound to a catalog server object, each catalog server object executing on a single computer, managing configuration data on the single computer, and receiving all calls for configuration data located on the single computer;

one or more table systems created by the one or more catalog server objects in response to a request for configuration data, each table system providing configuration data to the one or more catalog server objects, the table system including:

one or more datastores to store the configuration data;

one or more first logic table objects to present the configuration data;

one or more data table objects created by the one or more first logic table objects, each data table object exposing a table cursor into one of the datastores, each data table object bound to one of the datastores.

58. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 57, further comprising:

one or more second logic table objects created by the administration tool, the one or more second logic table objects creating the one or more client table objects, wherein the one or more second logic table objects receive the configuration data from the client table objects and provide the configuration data to the administration tool in a table format.

59. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 58, wherein one of the second logic table objects is a multiple-domain specific logic table object that communicates with two or more client table objects.

60. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 58, wherein the one or more second logic table objects present the configuration data in a virtual table format with a predetermined table interface.

61. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 57, wherein the table cursor is a predetermined table-oriented interface that hides the location and format of the underlying datastore.

62. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 57, wherein two or more data table objects access one datastore.

63. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 57, wherein the one or more data table objects populate one or more internal caches with read or write data associated with the bound datastore.

64. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 21, wherein queries to the bound datastore are responded to by data in the cache or caches through the a table interface of the data table object.

65. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 57, wherein the one or more first logic table objects provide one or more callers with access to configuration data.

66. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 65, wherein the configuration data in the one or more first logic table objects is accessed by a table-oriented interface that includes a table cursor method.

67. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 57, wherein the first logic table object presents domain-specific configuration data.

68. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 67, wherein the domain-specific configuration data is defined by one or more input parameters.

69. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 68, wherein the one or more input parameters include a database ID, a table ID, a query parameter, or a level of server parameter.

70. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 57, wherein the one or more first logic table objects merge configuration data from one or more data table objects or one or more first logic table objects.

71. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 57, wherein the one or more first logic table objects supplement functionality of the one or more data table objects by intercepting interface calls and adding to or overriding the functionality of the one or more data table objects.

72. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 57, the one or more first logic table objects synthesize data, according to a type of request for configuration data, which is not available from the one or more data table objects.

73. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 57, wherein both local and remote requests for configuration data are responded to by the catalog server object on the single computer.

74. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 57, wherein the one or more catalog server objects include one or more local catalog server objects executed on a local client computer to manage configuration data on the local client computer and one or more remote catalog server objects executed on a remote computer to manage configuration data on the remote computer.

75. (New) A computer program storage medium as defined in claim 74, wherein the remote computer is a server computer.